

From: Steve S. Scherping
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/4/02 2:57am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you because I am extremely concerned about the current state of the settlement concerning the Federal Government's case against Microsoft's antitrust practices. I feel that harsher penalties should take place. Take as an example, the recent offering by Microsoft as a settlement for the private antitrust cases brought against them. Not only do I believe this offer allows them to continue their monopoly since they will be imposing more of the software, operating systems, and hardware onto users, it also is quite meager since the potential value is \$1.1 billion, when they readily have \$36 in readily available capital. In this case, being a monopoly, Microsoft also controls the value of its products so again it is able to shorthand those involved in the settlement. I understand that this does not directly relate to your case, but it is deeply troubling that a company that is supposed to be punished, in the end will probably come out the winner again. I am not a rogue citizen that has a vendetta against Microsoft. Rather, I am an experienced system administrator that utilizes Microsoft products on a daily basis. In a university setting we are forced into pricing schemes and meager product offerings from Microsoft since our students are not capable of using other offerings since they consistently use proprietary technology and also force developers and manufacturers into sole platform support scenarios. Microsoft continues to test its corporate boundaries by attempting to force users into using their products. They also continue to alter known standards into their own proprietary technology.

Please continue your efforts to halt the illegal business practices of Microsoft.

Sincerely,

Steve S. Scherping

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Steve S. Scherping
Business:
U of MN
Communications Technician
CLA Language Center
51 Folwell Hall
9 Pleasant St SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Ph. 612-626-0013

Gen. Ph. 612-624-6811
Email: scher037@umn.edu

Home:
810 Thornton St. SE, Apt. 1004
Minneapolis, MN 55414
scher037@umn.edu
<http://umn.edu/home/scher037>
<http://www.ssstech.net>

Steve's PGP Public Key may be found at
http://www.umn.edu/lookup?SET_INSTITUTION=UMNTC&UID=scher037&show_pgp=1

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